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LATIN AMERICA

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WORKING GROUPS DISCUSS AGENDA FOR MINISTERS MEETING

PA172345Y Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 May 78 PA

[Text] The working groups of experts participating in the sixth meeting of the nonalined countries Coordinating Bureau being held in Havana are continuing their activities.

It was reported that the group in charge of political matters is analyzing the problems of Palestine, the Western Sahara, South Africa, Cyprus, Korea, east Timor, Latin America and Mayotte Island in the Comoro archipelago.

For their part, the experts discussing economic matters have almost concluded their work after agreeing that the topic of cooperation among developing countries will be included on the agenda of the foreign ministers meeting to begin tomorrow in this capital.

A draft program to promote tourism among underdeveloped countries will also be discussed at the ministerial-level meeting.

The experts meeting in Havana have suggested that Cuba chair the meeting of foreign ministers. This meeting has been widely reported by the press in Algiers, Angola and Mozambique, which have described it as essential to strengthening the solidarity in the struggle against colonialism and imperialism.

INDIA PROPOSES AMENDMENT TO DRAFT COMMUNIQUE

BK180918Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 May 78 BK

[Text] In Havana India has called upon the nonalined Coordinating Bureau to identify and suggest steps to solve all the problems facing the member countries. This will further strengthen the movement's unity and solidarity.

This was contained in an amendment India has proposed to the (?Cuban) draft communique which comes up before the bureau's ministerial meeting. The amendment stresses the need to create a broad platform to help the movement to step up its efforts to resolve urgent international problems.

India has also suggested inclusion in the final communique of the basic principles of nonalinement and its position in the present-day world.

ANGOLAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES FOR MEETING

FL180113Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 May 78 FL

[Excerpt] Paulo Teixeira Jorge, foreign minister of the People's Republic of Angola, arrived in Havana City today to participate in the nonalined countries movement Coordinating bureau meeting that is being held in this capital. At Jose Marti International Airport Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca welcomed the visitor, who is accompanied by his wife.

SYRIAN MINISTER OF STATE ARRIVES IN HAVANA

FL171857Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1825 GMT 17 May 78 FL

[Text] Syrian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs 'Abd al-Karim 'Adi has arrived in our country to participate in the nonalined countries movement Coordinating Bureau meeting at the ministerial level which begins tomorrow at the Habana Libre Hotel. The Syrian foreign minister is accompanied by (Muhammad al-Lufti), chief of the cabinet. The visitors were received at the airport by Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Fernandez Cossio.

ANDEAN GROUP BEGINS GATT DISCUSSIONS 16 MAY

PY171430Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 May 78 PY

[Text] The Andean group yesterday began a thorough study of the current state of the trade and bilateral negotiations within the framework of the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs [GATT]. The discussions are taking place at the headquarters of the Cartagena Agreement and will conclude today.

The participants in this meeting are trying to define their joint action [words indistinct] the definite stage of the GATT trade and bilateral negotiations which will take place soon in Geneva.

The final objective is to achieve a new and more just international economic order which will replace the current predominant structures, which are increasingly weighing down the countries of the Third World.

NEW ROUND OF AMAZON TALKS BEGINS IN CARACAS

PY171426Y Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 16 May 78 PY

[Text] The third preparatory meeting for the creation of the Amazon cooperation treaty began yesterday in Caracas, Venezuela, with the participation of Brazil, Surinam, Guyana, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Venezuela.

The objective of this meeting is to lay down the basis of a definite plan for the joint development of the greater Amazon region as proposed earlier by Brazil, which controls the largest portion of this region.

MONTES DISCUSSES WEAPONS, FOREIGN POLICY, ALDO MORO

PY180113Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2330 GMT 17 May 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 May--Argentine Foreign Minister Vice Adm Oscar Antonio Montes has stated that Argentina proposes as a top priority to achieve disarmament, that a gradual and balanced reduction of nuclear arsenals be implemented as a prior step toward achieving complete disarmament.

He said: We are aware of the serious problems which would stem from the purchase of these types of weapons by countries which thus far do not have them and of the need to prevent this from happening. We are willing to contribute effective and equitable action to this effect, just as we reject every attempt at discrimination in the transference of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, under the pretext of preventing horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Montes added: Finally, I want to point out another priority: a ban on the development, production and storage of all chemical weapons, of new mass destruction weapons, of those causing unnecessary pain and of those having unlimited effects. Furthermore, we will support every proposal designed to direct part of the large resources earmarked by the developed countries for weapons to fostering the socio-economic development of all peoples.

In an interview published by the magazine CONFIRMADO, Montes outlined the guidelines approved by the president of the republic for conducting Argentine foreign policy.

He said that this policy is based on the following points:

1. This policy must be focused on bordering countries and on Latin American countries, both in bilateral and international relations.

2. As to the Argentine policy on international relations, Argentina will maintain relations with all countries in the world as long as they respect our self-determination, just as Argentina respects the ideologies and self-determination of other countries.

3. As for economic policy, the objective is to obtain a substantial increase in our trade with all countries of the world.

4. Regarding the other branch falling under his ministry, that of worship, in Argentina there is not and there will be no religious or racial discrimination, and the freedom of religion guaranteed by the constitution will be maintained.

Montes also reported on the status of negotiations with Great Britain on the Malvinas Islands. He reported on the meetings held by work groups in Lima last February. He said: "The meeting showed that the issues related to economic cooperation have broad possibilities, but our country stated once again that it clearly ties the signing of any economic cooperation project with the United Kingdom to this requirement: that this country give formal, specific evidence of its political desire to recognize Argentine sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands."

Regarding the assassination of Italian politicain Aldo Moro, Montes said: "We Argentines have had an extremely painful experience in our fight against terrorism.

"Those who have not had a similar experience cannot truly appreciate the real threat which terrorism represents and the great national effort we had to make to eradicate it. One's own experience is irreplaceable. Perhaps now that Europeans are beginning to experience for themselves what terrorism means, they will become aware of the true scope of this phenomenon, which--as was time and again demonstrated--has international roots and connections and is not an exclusively local problem."

FRG, FRENCH WORLD CUP SECURITY PLANS REJECTED

PY172353Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2219 GMT 17 May 78 PY

[Text of communique issued by Foreign Ministry in Buenos Aires on 17 May]

[Text] In view of reports published in the papers BILD ZEITUNG of the FRG and LE FIGARO of France--both dated 16 May--as well as in the local media, to the effect that the FRG Interior Ministry and France's Youth, Sport and Leisure Ministry have ordered armed members of commando groups and security forces to accompany their national soccer teams to protect them during the World Cup soccer matches, the Foreign Ministry has instructed its delegations in Bonn and Paris to present a formal note to the respective foreign ministries reiterating the terms of the notices already sent to their governments concerning the security and protection of official teams and delegations during the event.

In that notice the Argentine Government states that no one bearing arms of any kind will be allowed to enter the country. Such action would not only be against Argentine law but is considered totally inadmissible. The government also reasserts that protection of the official teams and delegations is the sole responsibility of Argentine security forces.

In addition, in those notes the Argentine Government asked the governments of the FRG and France to help as much as possible to dispel the intensive campaigns against Argentina's prestige which have been developing in those countries recently, and which are not in agreement with the Argentine Government's proved efforts to maintain traditional good relations with those countries--despite these campaigns--for the good of our peoples and our mutual interests.

The ambassadors of the FRG and France have been called to the Foreign Ministry to receive this message.

VIDELA DECORATES VISITING BOLIVIAN ARMY COMMANDER

PY172314Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0050 GMT 17 May 78 PY

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 16 May--"Respect for national sovereignties and a just evaluation of common needs and interests are the basic ideas which guide Argentine policy regarding relations between countries." Gen Jorge Rafael Videla made this statement last night when he decorated Bolivian Army Commander in Chief Alfonso Villalpando Armasa with the Grand Cross of May Order of Military Merit, during a ceremony at the Libertad Building. General Videla noted his admiration for the arduous and difficult task which the Bolivian people and its armed forces are carrying out with clear and unanimous national purpose in the struggle to overcome those barriers which isolate their territory and, which in addition, obstruct Bolivian development and evolution. In representing Argentine authorities he expressed his desire for a prompt and just solution to the issue.

Videla expressed his conviction that "this visit will help strengthen those ties linking our two nations by improving even more the existing close relations, within the framework of a sincere and brotherly friendship which is based on those noble and just aspirations which gave us freedom and independence." He added that the Order of May is granted by the Argentine nation to acknowledge all those men who through their efforts contribute to progress, culture, well-being, understanding and solidarity among American countries.

LABOR MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE DENIES GENEVA TALKS WITH CGT

PY172039Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0010 GMT 17 May 78 PY

[Communique issued in Buenos Aires on 16 May by Labor Ministry]

[Text] In view of the reception in Argentina of a dispatch from a foreign news agency which reports an alleged meeting in Geneva between the Argentine labor minister and the former secretary of the General Labor Confederation [CGT], who is a fugitive, the Argentine labor minister reports to the public:

1. This report is completely false concerning both the labor minister and the members of his delegation. Furthermore, the alleged meeting never took place, either during this recent trip to Geneva, at any other place or time during the minister's administration or at any time prior to his administration.

2. The Argentine Government has contacts in the labor sector with Argentine unions, both through the military intervention of the CGT, military interventions within federations, unions and labor organizations and through its own authorities at the Labor Ministry. All of this is quite well known by all the usual information media and it is also known that this policy has been enforced, is enforced and will continue to be enforced only with those Argentine union leaders who are residing in this country.

3. It is fitting to remind the public at this time that the conduct of the former CGT secretary general, who is a fugitive, prompted the military junta to charge him with institutional Act No 2 for:

A. Disregard of basic moral principles during the exercise of public, political and union activities which involve public interest;

B. Serious negligence during the exercise of public, political and union activities which involve public interest;

C. Failure to meet the obligations which had been specified in the interest of society;

D. Comissions or omissions which have contributed to subversion or discord;

E. A tolerance of administrative corruption or negligence aiding such corruption.

All these reasons make it impossible, not only for an Argentine minister or a military officer on active duty, but for any well-intentioned Argentine citizen to have any kind of contact with such an individual.

MNRI SAYS ARMY, POLICE DETAINED PEASANT LEADERS

PY161854Y La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 16 May 78 PY

[Excerpts] The National Revolutionary Movement of the Left [MNRI] has denounced the detention and disappearance of many peasant leaders during the recent events of 14 May at Tiahuanacu. The charge was presented to the president of the National Electoral Court in a document which was signed by [name indistinct] (Bernal) and (Oscar Garcia), head and secretary of the MNRI departmental command, respectively.

The document states textually: On Sunday, 14 May, under the pretext of welcoming Hernan Siles Zuazo in Tiahuanacu, many MNRI peasant organizations were called to a rally in the main plaza of this locality. When the peasants saw that it was a childish trick--another candidate was presented instead of Siles Zuazo--they repudiated this action with marked indifference or with strong booing. At this time a large deployment from the police and armed forces arrived in three army trucks or half tracks [caimanes] and proceeded to violently detain the members of the Democratic and Popular Unity Front [FUDP] belonging to peasant organizations in the area.

The MNRI stated that these detentions show that there are no guarantees of a free and broad democratic game. The document concluded stating: We believe that, if the overstated constitutional and democratic freedoms exist, full guarantees must be granted; in other words, constitutional guarantees for all parties which will participate in the elections.

SILES SALINAS RENEWS PLEA FOR BROAD LEFT FRONT

PY161457Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 15 May 78 PY

[Text] During a press conference today, Luis Adolfo Siles Salinas made a call for unity of the opposition and the concentration of all popular forces.

The former president said that it is necessary to form a democratic leftist offensive as an instrument to achieve and consolidate democracy.

He said that by making a call for the formation of a large political front, he does not intend to become a presidential or vice presidential candidate. He said he understands that this is the time for sacrifices and not for abstention. [words indistinct]

The press conference was held in the headquarters of the national press association in the presence of political leaders such as Hernan Siles Zuazo and Juan Lechin Oquendo; leaders of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left; and other leftist leaders.

The former president said [words indistinct] a great vacuum, and that from now on we will no longer see a lonely Don Quixote struggling to make all the efforts but active militants of a great democratic left front [words indistinct].

He also said that in the name of national public opinion he will make every effort to lead the nation toward unity with precise objectives and to continue with these objectives after the elections.

Hernan Siles Zuazo, candidate of the People's Democratic Union, said that he was willing to withdraw his presidential candidacy in support of the Bolivian people if this would help to unite all popular forces.

POLICE COMMANDER AFFIRM INSTITUTIONAL NEUTRALITY

PY170209Y La Paz Radio del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 16 May 78 PY

[Text] The Bolivian police force today reiterated its neutrality regarding the elections and specified that its members have the right to support any presidential candidate. Col Lino Perez, Bolivian police commander, said this to Radio Cruz del Sur in reference to police officers who proclaimed Gen Juan Pereda Asbun presidential candidate during a comrades' party. Col Lino Perez added: We have the right, as individuals and Bolivian citizens, to express our support for General Pereda as presidential candidate for nationalism.

Several opposition parties and two former presidents issued harsh criticism of this police support because they believe that on the day of elections Bolivian police must maintain order and be impartial. This support was also criticized by a former police commander.

ONLY 10 PERCENT OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS HAVE REGISTERED

PY171414Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1510 GMT 13 May 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 13 May--According to estimates of the National Electoral Court, abstention during the coming 9 July elections will be above 20 percent.

This percentage of abstention has been estimated on the basis of the rate at which people are registering at the voters incription offices, which will close on 9 June.

According to the court, little more than 10 percent of the future voters have registered at the inscription offices so far.

These statistical data have confirmed press reports that there is overall apathy toward the coming elections.

BRIEFS

SATELLITE STATION CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS--Fadrique Munuz Reyes, Bolivian minister of transport and communications, has stated that the earth satellite station which will link Bolivia with the rest of the world will be ready before December this year, unless some emergency occurs. He indicated that the work is being carried out on schedule and the few days of delay are caused by transport difficulties from and to the construction site. [La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 May 78 PY]

TIN VOLATILIZATION PLANT--According to Mining Corporation of Bolivia [COMIBOL] sources, the tin volatilization plant which will be installed in Machacamarca, 39 kms from the city of Oruro, will cost more than $30 million. This plant will have a capacity for processing 400 tons per day and will use the mineral produced by Catavi, Huanuni, Colquiri, San Jose, and others. COMIBOL recently signed an agreement with the USSR firm Mashinoeksport for the implementation of the Machacamarca project. [La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 8 May 78 PY]

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS CONCERNED OVER STRIKES IN SAO PAULO

PY162038Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1220 GMT 16 May 78 PY

[By Francois Campredon]

[Excerpt] Sao Paulo, 16 May--The illegal strike called here last Monday by 6,500 workers--2,500 from Saab Scania and 4,000 from Ford--is today worrying Brazilian officials, who fear that the movement may spread.

In fact, it seems as though the movement will extend to the remaining automobile factories of the region, among them Volkswagen, Mercedes Benz and General Motors.

The strikers demand, above all, wage increases between 15 and 20 percent in addition to the automatic annual adjustment of 39 percent granted by the government on 1 April.

This is the first time in 10 years that a movement of this size has broken out in Brazil.

Since early this year the government has unsuccessfully tried to ease the growing unrest among the workers--whose purchasing power has been reduced with the passage of time. It is now seriously concerned over this situation.

In an unprecedented action under the military regime, Brazilian President Ernesto Geisel himself attended the official Labor Day celebrations in Sao Paulo on 1 May. Most union leaders, however, did not attend the celebrations.

The strike called by the workers of Sao Bernardo is illegal under present Brazilian law since it is aimed at obtaining a higher wage increase than that established by the government.

For the time being, government officials prefer to implement a pragmatic solution rather than a judicial one to avoid a direct clash with the workers since this could cause a mobilization of both the working class and the political opposition against the regime.

Therefore, Labor Minister Arnaldo Prieto refused to consider the movement as a strike, because in that case, in accordance with the law, the police would have to force the strikers out of the factories.

Prieto regards these movements as mere stoppages and entrusted the regional labor delegate with the solution of these conflicts, despite the fact that these movements could have national political repercussions.

Ten years ago, a strike called by steel workers of Osasco, a suburb of Sao Paulo, elicited violent police repression and the radicalization of the military regime.

This year, the government is going through an extremely difficult period since it is also facing an opposing faction within the army itself.

Sao Paulo State is a basic part of the Brazilian economy since it is the site of most multinational enterprises and accounts for nearly 50 percent of the country's GNP.

Mercedes Benz Workers Join Strike

PY162139Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1908 GMT 16 May 78 PY

[Text] Sao Paulo, 16 May--Approximately 8,000 workers at the Mercedes Benz factory in Sao Bernardo, in the Sao Paulo suburbs, went on strike today, apparently in support of their 11,000 colleagues from Ford and another 2,500 from Saab Scania.

The action, which seeks a salary increase higher than the scale ordered by the Brazilian Government, is the first reported in the last 10 years. Reliable sources indicated that workers from Perkins and Karman Ghia, a subsidiary of Volkswagen, are ready to join the strike.

Strike Negotiations Reported Deadlocked

PY171508Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0034 GMT 17 May 78 PY

[Excerpts] Sao Paulo, 16 May--It was reported here that approximately 20,000 workers of the automobile industry of Sao Paulo remained on strike today, while negotiations to solve the salary conflict are deadlocked and getting worse every day.

Luis Gnacio da Silva, president of the union, harshly criticized the rigid government salary policies, which in his opinion are worsened by the uncompromising attitude of management, which speaks a lot but does nothing.

The union leader said that the strikes are a demonstration of workers' discontent and admitted that the strikes were organized outside the union he heads.

Da Silva said that workers no longer have faith in the unions due to the current legal structures.

The leader offered his services to find an amicable solution to the conflicts, as he did previously with the Saab Scania factory.

Salary Demands Called 'Illusory'

PY170251Y Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 17 May 78 PY

[Text] Jorge Furtado, secretary general of the Labor Ministry, has termed illusory the demand for wage increases above the approved rates made by the Sao Paulo steel workers. Speaking in Sao Paulo, Furtado said that these increases will only stimulate inflation, which will ultimately hurt all workers.

Labor Ministry Remains Firm

PY171556Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0426 GMT 17 May 78 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 17 May--The Brazilian Labor Ministry will strictly follow the present legal regulations to solve the salary conflict which provoked the strike of some 12,000 automobile industry workers in Sao Paulo, it was announced here tonight.

The announcement was made by the Labor Ministry legal adviser, Marcelo Pimentel, who told reporters that the Sao Paulo labor regional court will have to decide if the strike is legal or not.

He added that the Labor Ministry will not modify its present salary policy, indicating that the workers demands are not being considered.

In turn, Industry and Commerce Minister Angelo Calmon de Sa said that to call a strike against the salary readjustment determined by the government is illegal, adding that Finance Minister Mario Henrique Simonsen clearly told the workers during a meeting that the government's salary policy will not change. Calmon de Sa added that if the policy is modified the results would be a disaster for the country's economy and would hinder the efforts of the government to combat inflation.

In Sao Paulo it was reported tonight that 1,100 workers of Volkswagen of Brazil joined the strike that has halted activities at the factories of Mercedes Benz and the Ford Company of Brazil.

The negotiations carried out today among the representatives of labor, management and the Labor Ministry were interrupted without reaching an agreement on the workers' demands. The workers are demanding a salary increase 20 percent above the 39 percent set by the government for that sector.

To call a strike is forbidden by Brazilian law, which determines that salary increases must comply with the limit established by the government in accordance with the inflation rate.

Strikes Spread

PY172232Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2056 GMT 17 May 78 PY

[Text] Sao Paulo, Brazil, 17 May--The movement for salary increases is spreading like wildfire in Sao Paulo. A union source reported here that the factory workers of the Netherlands firm Phillipd and the French company Rhodia joined the movement today.

Phillips' 2,000 employees are on strike, demanding a 20-percent wage increase. Rhodia's 4,500 employees are threatening to hold a strike if the company does not fulfill their demands within 15 days.

Until today, the strike movement had been limited to the automotive industry.

Strike News Coverage Banned

PY180343Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2001 GMT 17 May 78 PY

[Excerpt] Sao Paulo, Brazil, 17 May--Observers here today reported that the Brazilian Government, which considers the strikes affecting Sao Paulo's automotive industry to be illegal, has ordered a radio and television ban on these reports in the country.

SPOKESMAN COMMENTS ON BENTES MONTEIRO CANDIDACY

PY180016Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 May 78 PY

[Excerpts] The Government House does not believe that the contacts aimed at launching a military candidate for the Brazilian Democratic Movement [MDB]--possibly Gen Euler Bentes Monteiro--constitute a "conspiracy," as Gen Joao Baptista de Figueiredo hinted in Rio Grande do Sul last week. The Government House spokesman believes that this "concerns only the MDB and General Bentes Monteiro or anyone else invited to run as the MDB candidate, either civilian or military."

In response to a request for a personal opinion on Gen Euler Bentes Monteiro, the spokesman, Col Rubem Ludwig, stated that he had served under him when he, Ludwig, was a captain and Euler was a colonel, and that he had "very good memories of Euler." He added that "Euler is a great person, a man of strong democratic convictions, intelligent and discreet." According to Ludwig, the fact that General Bentes Monteiro has said he would examine any MDB invitation cannot classify him as the opposition.

A journalist asked whether the Government House views this as a conspiracy against General Figueiredo's candidacy.

"Not at all," answered Ludwig.

"Then why did General Figueiredo state in Rio Grande do Sul that there is a conspiracy against him in Rio?" asked the journalists.

"Did he really say that? Did he really say that there was a conspiracy against his candidacy? Did he say that General Bentes Monteiro was responsible? I do not believe it...." answered Ludwig.

"What General Figueiredo said was that there is a conspiracy headquartered in Rio," clarified another reporter.

"I have no information about this," said Ludwig. "On the basis of information we have, I can see no conspiracy. However, if General Figueiredo has some additional information in this regard, and he may well have it, then the picture may change."

A journalist wanted to know whether the launching of a military candidate for the MDB with the support of several army sectors could mean a split within the army. The spokesman indicated that support from persons and support from sectors were two different things. He said that "a personal attitude favoring some candidate or other is perfectly acceptable within our current system, and this candidate can be officially and legally registered. If some officers support General Bentes Monteiro, it is perfectly normal. Different points of view do not mean divisions or splits."

PORTELLA OUTLINES DETAILS OF POLITICAL REFORMS

PY171537Y Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 17 May 78 PY

[Text] Senator Petronio Portella today outlined the reforms which are being considered by the government, noting that among them is the repeal of Article 185 of the federal constitution, which provides that political punishments will remain effective in perpetuity.

After a meeting of the National Renewal Alliance national executive board, Portella reported that pursuant to the proposed safeguards the president of the republic will be authorized to decree emergency measures for a 90-day period, which could be extended for another 90 days under circumstances which may endanger the country's security. These measures will be restricted to certain areas or sectors of society and the president will have to report on his actions to the National Congress.

Each citizen will be able to appeal to the Federal Supreme Court when he is affected by actions taken pursuant to emergency laws. The state of siege will remain as it is now legislated in the present constitution.

Regarding the cancellation of rights of elected congressmen, a procedure will be established to have the Federal Supreme Court decide on these cases on the basis of charges made by the attorney general. Upon presentation of the charges by the attorney general, the congressman will have his rights automatically suspended.

The reforms also include the restoration of the writ of habeas corpus, the restoration of guarantees for judges and the repeal of decree Law No 477 [which bans political activities from universities].

SOYBEAN CROP LOSS DUE TO DROUGHT REPORTED

PY171422Y Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 17 May 78 PY

[Text] According to the fourth regional agricultural precinct, the situation of soybean crops in the 20 districts of Rio Grande do Sul under its jurisdication shows a 35.77 percent loss. (?Parasi) lost 50 percent of its crop and gathered only 1,125,000 sacks from 75,000 hectares. (?Seubach) lost only 5 percent of its crop and gathered 370,000 sacks from its 13,000 hectares of soybean plantations.

ESTIMATES OF 1978 WHEAT, CORN IMPORTS GIVEN

PY171434Y Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 17 May 78 PY

[Text] Florianopolis--According to National Supply Council Executive Secretary Jose Antonio Arregui, Brazil this year will import 5.5 million tons of wheat at a cost of $600 million to take care of domestic consumption. Arregui added that in 1978 wheat production will not be in line with other years.

The official also reported that 500,000 tons of corn will be imported this year. The sale of this commodity will be subsidized and fowl and hograising areas will receive preferential treatment with regard to supply.

FORMER DEPUTY PRESSES FOR ANTARCTIC EXPLOITATION

PY121633Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0126 GMT 12 May 78 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 11 May--Former Brazilian Deputy Euripides Cardoso de Menezes stated here today that his country must participate in the exploitation of the Antarctic's economic resources.

Menezes, in a statement to the Foreign Relations Committee of the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies, noted the strategic importance of the Antarctic region to Brazilian security and the existence of large mineral resources in the area.

For many years Cardozo de Menezes has promoted a Brazilian presence in the Antarctic. He believes that Brazil has sovereign rights over the [Antarctic] territory found between the longitudes of Chui, the southern-most point of Brazil, and the Martin Vaz Islands, located off the Brazilian coast, where Argentina's General Belgrano and Sobral bases are located.

Brazil, which signed the Antarctic treaty on 16 May 1975, has not conducted any expeditions to the Antarctic, despite an announcement several years ago that such an expedition would be undertaken.

CONSTITUTIONAL DRAFT DEADLINE EXTENDED 90 DAYS

PY172003Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 May 78 PY

[Excerpt] President Augusto Pinochet has acceded to the request submitted by the commission in charge of writing a new constitution. The commission has asked for an extension of 90 days to submit the draft.

This morning the chief of state met with Enrique Ortuzar Escobar, president of the Constitutional Reform Commission. The commission had asked the president for an extension of 90 days in which to submit a constitutional draft which was requested by Pinochet and had to be submitted before 21 May.

The extension was granted by the president due to the explanations given by the commission. This information was provided by Pinochet himself to reporters this morning after a meeting with Enrique Ortuzar Escobar.

EYZAGUIRRE WILL LEAVE SUPREME COURT BENCH

PY161754Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 16 May 78 PY

[Text] Jose Maria Eyzaguirre, president of the Supreme Court, said that he did not submit his name to become a candidate again for the three-member Supreme Court, a term which ended yesterday, in order to give an opportunity to other judges.

These remarks were made by Eyzaguirre after the inauguration of the 14th Congress of the Latin American Association of Industrialists. The president of the Supreme Court said that he preferred, due to his seniority, to return to the work of president of a lower court.

With regard to his job as president of the Supreme Court, he indicated that the most serious problems he had to face were related to political prisoners and the continuous visits he had to make to the prisons in order to become familiar with individual problems.

FIVE MIR MEMBERS FREED, DEPART FOR EUROPE

PY162230Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2117 GMT 16 May 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 16 May--An official spokesman reported today that five members of the clandestine Chilean Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR] set free here have left for Europe.

They are Horacio Marotta, Isidoro Liendo, Sergio Enrique Sepulveda, Ines Naranjo and Ana Maria Duhalde, who were detained in December 1977 by security forces.

According to Interior Ministry Under Secretary Enrique Montero, none of them was affected by the general amnesty for political prisoners ordered recently by the government. He added that they were set free last weekend by resolution of the military court which tried them.

Marotta, Naranjo and Duhalde left for Sweden; Liendo left for Norway and Sepulveda left for Great Britain, the under secretary added.

GOVERNMENT ISSUES STATEMENT ON DOMINICAN EVENTS

PA172228Y Bogota Radio Super in Spanish 2207 GMT 17 May 78 PA

[Official communique issued by San Carlos Presidential Palace--read by announcer]

[Text] The Colombian Government is carefully following the development of the delicate situation in the final phase of the elections in the Dominican Republic. It hopes that the events will not compromise the solid progress already achieved by the Dominican people in strengthening their institutions. It also hopes that, in view of the outstanding qualities of the OAS representatives who are observing the electoral process of Santo Domingo, the difficulties will be overcome and any threat to the freedom of the Dominican people will soon disappear.

VIOLENCE CONTINUES; GOVERNMENT DEVISES ANTITERRORIST PLAN

Council of Ministers Meets

PA172247Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1745 GMT 17 May 78 PA

[By Francisco Osaba]

[Text] Bogota, 17 May (EFE)--Colombian Defense Minister Maj Gen Abraham Varon Valencia today [as received] denounced the existence of a subversive plot to disrupt the 4 June presidential elections.

During a Council of Ministers meeting called unexpectedly last night by President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen which lasted until dawn, the top authorities of the nation drew up a broad antiterrorist plan to guarantee peace during the preelectoral period.

Although it is not known exactly what group or persons are behind the terrorist plan, in the past week many people have been arrested in different parts of the country from whom plans, arms and explosives have been confiscated. Observers feel that the terrorist plan stems from the atmosphere of violence existing in Colombia in the past few days with the disturbances caused by the increase in public transport fares.

Although government sources said the problem is tapering off after the general strike on Monday, a student was killed yesterday in Medellin in a clash with the army. Twelve policemen were seriously wounded. Although there were only minor scattered clashes between demonstrators and the army and police in Bogota in the past few hours, serious clashes were reported in Medellin and Cali last night and this morning. In Bogota alone, 300 arrests were made last weekend. Two persons were court-martialed for setting buses on fire and sentenced to 4 years in prison.

In connection with the widespread plan to prevent violence in the next few days before the presidential elections, it was reported that 150 mobile units of the four branches of the army are being deployed to guarantee order. Military units will patrol the principal cities of Bogota, Cali, Medellin, Barranquilla and Bucaramanga, checking both automobiles and pedestrians. A few days before 4 June, the armed forces will practically take over the country to guarantee Colombians' access to the polls. The Defense Ministry is expected to cancel all leave for armed forces personnel as of the end of May.

New Disturbances in Bogota

PA180158Y Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 May 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--Groups of hooded terrorists staged new disturbances here, setting fire to a bus. The police have arrested many persons. The authorities reported that about 20 youths threw 6 molotov cocktails at a bus on the corner of 34th Street and 19th Avenue. The 45 passengers miraculously were not injured. There is great tension in the city following this incident. Hundreds of members of the military institutes brigade have been deployed throughout the city.

At noon, another group destroyed an automobile of the Bogota power company at the corner of 7th Avenue and 45th Street. Military sources said that 60 persons have been arrested in various parts of the city during the past few hours.

A meeting of the military high command was convened by brigade commander Maj Gen Armando (Oreguera) Escobar. Its (?results) are unknown. The imposition of a curfew has been ruled out for the time being, said Bogota district government secretary Julio (Nieto Aguilar).

Medellin Public Meetings Banned

PA180257Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 2330 GMT 17 May 78 PA

[Excerpt] Medellin--The security council of Antioquia Department today decreed the suspension, beginning at [word indistinct], of all types of public meetings in places open to the public such as assemblies, [words indistinct] or any other type of gathering that seeks to disrupt order. This measure is the result of the public order situation in Medellin due to student disturbances and the strikes announced by the various sectors of the [word indistinct]. The decree states that the measure does not apply to political meetings. Meanwhile, there is tension here since primary and secondary school teachers plan to stage a march through the city's main streets at noon tomorrow.

The security council began its meeting at 1500. It decided that it would be advisable to continue with intensive (?police) patrols throughout the city. The Antioquia governor has asked the news media that the reports on the public order situation be based on official communiques.

Bogota, Medellin Universities Closed

PA172258Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1520 GMT 17 May 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 17 May (EFE)--Student violence rocking the country today prompted the government to order the closing of the national universities of Bogota and Medellin. An official source revealed that the measure was adopted to prevent the students from participating in a 24-hour strike called for Thursday by 80,000 public employees. Students from these two universities and another in Cali participated in Tuesday's disturbances, in which a student was killed and over 20 policemen injured.

The district government decided early today to release 156 persons arrested during Monday's disturbances in this capital during an urban busdrivers general strike. The emergency measures adopted Tuesday evening in Bogota include military patrols from 2300 GMT today to prevent disorders during the public workers strike announced for tomorrow.

COLOMBIAN ARMY GENERAL MEETS WITH PRESIDENT MORALES

PA172015Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0050 GMT 17 May 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 16 May (AFP)--Colombian Army Commander Gen Jaime Sarmiento stated today in this capital that the armies of Peru and Colombia "have always worked for the well-being of their people."

The army commander, who has been here since yesterday, Monday, made this statement during a visit to the Chorrillos Military Academy, and its director, Gen Julian Julia, gave him a replica of a cadet cap. The Colombian Army commander paid homage there to Peru's army patron, Col Francisco Bolognesi, by placing a wreath at a monument honoring him.

Shortly thereafter, General Sarmiento was received by Navy Minister Vice Adm Jorge Parodi, who told him that what Peru wants most is the integration of the two countries. "The enemy," he said, "is underdevelopment and foreign ideologies that come to our area. We do not accept this."

Yesterday, General Sarmiento visited President Gen Francisco Morales Bermudez, to whom he gave the command baton of his army.

ORDER RESTORED IN HUANUCO; DISTURBANCES IN AREQUIPA

PA171918Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1758 GMT 17 May 78 PA

[By Miguel Paredes]

[Text] Lima, 17 May (LATIN)--Four dead, 100 wounded and about 200 arrests were the toll of yesterday's disturbances in the interior protesting the severe economic measures recently taken by the government.

In the meantime, Lima remained calm today under the strict watch of soldiers in armored vehicles and policemen in trucks touring the main business streets and university areas.

A communique said the police resisted the violent attacks of angry groups protesting against increases in the prices of basic commodities and fuel ordered on Monday.

The ministry pointed out that order "has been completely restored" in Huanuco, 420 km east of Lima.

On the other hand, according to reports from Arequipa, 1,100 km south of Lima, unidentified persons set fire to Porongoche racetrack last night with losses estimated at 40 million soles ($26,000).

After the disturbances, which started on Monday and increased yesterday in this province of half a million inhabitants, the army today assumed total control of the city to avoid a repetition of demonstrations against the government.

This morning soldiers and policemen had a difficult time demolishing the barricades in different streets of Arequipa, especially downtown and around San Camilo, the city's main market.

The Arequipa prefect's office said property losses are "sizeable," and reports of the casualties and the arrest of numerous demonstrators were confirmed.

Police strengthened their control and vigilance around markets, communications centers, radio stations and government buildings.

The prices of basic foods and fuels were raised 45 percent after the government decided to cut of subsidies for these products.

In Lima on Monday, when the news of the increase in the cost of living was announced, disturbances took place in several parts of the city and led to a partial closing of businesses.

VOTING PLACES PUT UNDER ARMED FORCES, POLICE CONTROL

PY180250Y Lima Radio Union in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 May 78 PY

[Text] Beginning today, the armed forces and police are controlling the voting places in view of the upcoming elections for the constituent assembly.

The first area to be placed under control was the National Congress building, where the provincial electoral commissions will deposit the ballots to be sent by the National Electoral Court.

This control was adopted in accordance with the mission entrusted by law to the armed forces and police to guarantee order and security for the electoral process to be conducted on 4 June 1978.

In view of this measure, the president of the Lima Provincial Electoral Commission, Dr (Ana Maria Sanchez de Vera Pozo), met early this morning with representatives of [words indistinct].

Also, the joint command of the armed forces today submitted to the National Electoral Court the folders indicating the roles to be assigned to personnel of the armed forces and police during the electoral process for the constituent assembly.

COMMENTARY EXPLAINS NEED FOR ECONOMIC SACRIFICE

PY172248Y Tacna Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 May 78 PY

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] We must overcome the stage of underdevelopment since, if we really want to win the battle of our economic independence, we have to eliminate all the obstacles which hinder our achieving this objective sooner.

One of these obstacles is inflation, which reduces the value of money. And one of the causes of inflation is that we are paying unreal prices for many staples, prices which have been subsidized by the state. But, as we know, the state has limited resources. And because of this it is impossible to continue with this indiscriminate and (?demanding) policy.

In view of this situation, we have to make a sacrifice, a sacrifice which will in any case be only temporary since the measures taken tend to correct all the evils which affect integral and continued development of the country.

AP LEAVES MEMBERS FREE TO VOTE FOR OTHER PARTIES

PA160213Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1642 GMT 15 May 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 15 May (AFP)--It was announced here today that former Peruvian President Fernando Belaunde's Popular Action (AP) Party, which has decided not to participate in the coming elections for a constituent assembly, has left its members free to vote for any other group.

In a meeting of the general membership specifically convened for that purpose, AP agreed to leave its members free to case a blank vote, a null vote, or a vote in favor of any of the 12 parties that will participate in the elections on 4 June.

The AP is not participating in the elections which are to choose the 100 members of the constituent assembly--whose primary task will be to draft a new constitution--because it feels that it is unnecessary to promulgate a new constitution. On the contrary, it has called for general elections to be held soon to expedite the transfer of power from the military to civilians.

It was also decided at the same meeting that the party's leader, Fernando Belaunde, will conduct a "factfinding" tour throughout the country after the elections.

UDP, FOCEP REGAIN RIGHT TO RADIO, TELEVISION TIME

PA111621Y Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 6 May 78 p 6 PA

[Text] The National Electorial Tribunal [JNE] yesterday revoked a ruling made by the special electoral propaganda commission withholding free advertising time from the People's Democratic Union (UDP) and the Popular Worker, Peasant and Student Front [Frente Obrero Campesino Estudiantil Popular--FOCEP]. The JNE restored to the two organizations the right to radio and television time.

The resolution issued by the JNE states that while it is true that the UDP and the FOCEP "have made certain impertinent statements," this is not enough to justify "a sanction of the type imposed."

In addition, the resolution states that during electoral periods, "it is the duty of those who are involved in electoral affairs to base their judgments on criteria more liberal than those they apply in judging human acts and deeds during ordinary times."

Questioned by newsmen, JNE President Dr Ulises Montoya Manfredi said that this ruling had been based on constitutional provisions regarding freedom of expression, as well as on the law which convoked the constituent assembly--the decree on elections and electoral propaganda regulations.

Dr Montoya said that the JNE resolution does not exempt the UDP and FOCEP from observing the rules established for electoral propaganda. Asked whether the air time which the two organizations have lost since the special commission sanction was imposed would be returned to them, Dr Montoya said that this would be the subject of a new appeal.

AGRICULTURE MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE ON PEASANT COMMUNITIES LAW

PY131516Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 May 78 PY

[Text of communique released in Lima on 12 May by Public Relations and Information Office of Agriculture and Nutrition Ministry]

[Text] In view of newspaper communiques in which the National Agrarian Confederation [CNA] expresses concern and surprise over the imminent promulgation of the new general peasants communities law without the knowledge or cooperation of the peasant class and the absence of dialog with the head of that sector, the Agriculture and Nutrition Ministry feels it must report the following to the rural workers and the public in general:

1. The (?complaint) of the CNA leadership has no foundation in reality because the armed forces revolutionary government, through the National System for Support to Social Mobilization [SINAMOS], repeatedly made proposals regarding the project to the CNA leadership during the formulation of the draft for the peasant communities law.

2. During the preparation of the draft law the CNA participated through the cooperation of (Fermino Herreras), CNA peasant enterprises secretary, and Gualberto Portocarrero, [words indistinct], during work meetings with officials of the revolutionary government especially assigned for such cooperation. The CNA leadership also sent (?letter) No 1528/77 of 15 October 1977 to the SINAMOS chief with a document entitled "CNA Proposal for Planned General Peasant Communications Law," which was used in formulating the draft law.

3. The draft of the peasant communities law not only contains valuable contributions from prominent specialists and the CNA, but also includes suggestions obtained directly from the people participating in agrarian reform, among whom were numerous SINAMOS personnel who conducted field work in May 1977 [words indistinct].

4. Regarding the alleged absence of dialog, the CNA leadership knows it is not telling the truth because meetings were held by the agriculture and nutrition minister which the CNA president himself attended. The meetings were requested by [words indistinct], representatives for the Agrarian Production Cooperatives, the Social Interest Agricultural Organization, peasant enterprises and agrarian producers, and were attended by the present CNA leadership.

5. During the agriculture and nutrition minister's various trips to rural zones, special attention was given to dialogs with the peasants to learn their problems in order to find (?adequate), immediate solutions for better development of agrarian activities, and those dialogs were attended by the CNA leadership.

6. The Agriculture and Nutrition Ministry categorically rejects the (?tendentious) CNA communiques as blatantly untruthful and clearly intended to confuse public opinion and create unrest and trouble among rural workers, who are the true participants in agrarian reform. The armed forces government and this ministry are demonstrating genuine concern for their development through the promulgation of laws for socioeconomic promotion.

FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON DOMINICAN SITUATION

PA 172148Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2050 GMT 17 May 78 PA

["Text" of communique issued on 17 May by Venezuelan Foreign Ministry--read by announcer]

[Text] In view of the disturbing reports received from the Dominican Republic, the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry wishes to publicly express the Venezuelan Government's deep concern over the results of the elections held yesterday.

The president of the republic has personally spoken to one of the OAS observers in Santo Domingo, former Colombian President Misael Pastrana Borrero. He expressed [words indistinct] Venezuela's full solidarity with the OAS delegates' mission. He also voiced his trust in the mediating efforts they may undertake in the name of all Latin American peoples who hope that the popular will will be respected.

NATIONWIDE TEACHERS STRIKE BEGINS; UNION LEADERS COMMENT

PA170445Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0255 GMT 17 May 78 PA

[By Felix Ropero]

[Text] Caracas, 16 May (EFE)--Venezuelan primary, secondary and higher education was paralyzed today as a result of a strike by 140,000 teachers in support of a strike begun last week by their university colleagues.

The general strike was called by the so-called interunion teachers command during a meeting convened by the Federation of Associations of Professors of Universities and Colleages of Venezuela (FAPICUV) at the main hall of the Central University of Venezuela.

The strike is the result of the education authorities' refusal to accept the social and economic demands of the 3,700 professors affiliated with FAPICUV.

Information and Tourism Minister Celestino Armas today reiterated the Venezuelan Government's decision to maintain its position. Armas revealed that the government has offered a 20-percent increase in the 3,500 bolivares ($814) minimum wage. This would increase the minimum wage to 4,200 bolivares ($977). The minister explained that the teachers are demanding a 40-percent increase in the minimum wage. He said that if this demand were accepted, it would create an irregular situation in the country's economy which could harm the interests of other workers.

FAPICUV President Eloisa de Gomez and Miguel Angel Moyetones, president of the Association of Education Professors, have indicated that the strike, which affects Caracas and 11 other states, will last until Wednesday.

Nonetheless, Isaac Olivera, president of the interunion command, has explained that if the government maintains its intransigent position the staggered strikes will continue indefinitely and will extend to other educational areas and the rest of the country.

According to Eloisa de Gomez, the problem is strictly a union matter rather than a political one, which is why the teachers' unity has been maintained.

Through its sectional executive committee in Caracas, the official Democratic Action Party has rejected the teachers strike, which it regards as harmful to the country's interests and unjustified under the present circumstances. It has asked teachers to adopt an attitude of reflection and responsibility.

What no one doubts is that those most hurt by the situation are the nearly 60,000 students from the schools and universities who have practically lost the academic year because no classes were held during the last semester. Nonetheless, most of them support their teachers' demands.

Information Minister Explains Demands

PA161637Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 16 May 78 PA

[Text] The government has offered teachers a 700-Bolivar wage increase and it can offer no more, said Minister of Information and Tourism Dr Celestino Armas. The minister made the statement in connection with the university teachers' demands.

The minister said that professors have a basic salary of 3,500 bolivares, which would be raised to over 4,000.

There has been a lack of information in this country in connection with the problem, said Dr Celestino Armas. He added that it is untrue that the government has been indifferent toward the teachers' demands for an improved social and economic status. He added that 80 percent of the population considers it quite fair for teachers to stage demonstrations and claim that the government is indifferent toward them.

But just the opposite is true, the minister insisted. What has happened, he added, is that neither the government nor the media have succeeded in explaining to the nation the true situation in connection with a group of professors or anarchic leaders who do not reflect the views of the majority of the organization's 3,700 members.

He added that the Romulo Gallegos Democratic Alliance, which is comprised of most of the university teachers, has been publishing a communique in the press for several days in which it states satisfaction with the government offer.

Minister Armas then provided some statistics in connection with salaries. The government, he said, has offered a 20-percent wage increase. A beginning professor or instructor has a salary of 3,500 bolivares, so he will be getting a 700-bolivar increase, which will place his salary at 4,200 bolivares a month. A full professor makes 7,100 bolivares, which would be raised to 8,500. And a director, who at the present time makes 7,600 bolivares, would make 9,200 bolivares, have use of an automobile and driver and receive other fringe benefits. They do not think this is enough, said the minister, and it leads them to paralyzing the pedagogic and technological institutes thus endangering the academic year for some 70,000 persons, that is, 70,000 students needed for the nation's development.

Because of misinformation, about which we have already spoken, a distorted image of reality is being presented and a large number of Venezuelans think it is the rural teachers whom the government is cheating out of just remuneration, rural teachers aspiring to a modest wage increase. As you see, this is not the case. On the contrary, it is almost exclusively the privileged persons within the public administration wage scales who are involved. They are not content with a 20-percent increase and want 40 percent over what they are presently making.

FOREIGN MINISTRY EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER DOMINICAN EVENTS

PA172142Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2130 GMT 17 May 78 PA

[Text] Panama City, 17 May (ACAN-EFE)--The Panamanian Foreign Ministry today expressed its "deep concern over events in the Dominican Republic, which seem to be aimed at changing the results of the vote in which the Dominican people expressed their will."

The official Panamanian note released to ACAN-EFE this afternoon adds: "Panama hopes that the delegation sent by the OAS to the Dominican Republic will completely fulfill the mission it was assigned. We will support all efforts the OAS representatives carry out to safeguard honest elections and the maintenance of democracy and peaceful coexistence in Santo Domingo.

"We believe that on our continent respect for the people's will and the free exercise of democracy are the only real paths for the development of our countries within a framework of respect and social justice."

SPECIAL DELEGATION TO INVITE HEADS OF STATE FOR CARTER VISIT

PA172219Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2150 GMT 17 May 78 PA

[Text] Panama City, 17 May (ACAN-EFE)--The Panamanian Foreign Ministry confirmed today, Wednesday, its intention of assembling in Panama the heads of state of Colombia, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Mexico and Jamaica on 16 June on the occasion of President Jimmy Carter's visit. The U.S. President will come to Panama to sign with Chief of Government Omar Torrijos a protocol confirming the exchange of ratification instruments of the new Panama Canal treaties.

In a note delivered to ACAN-EFE this afternoon, the Foreign Ministry stated that a special delegation of officials will visit the capitals of these countries to personally invite the heads of state. The delegation is composed of Foreign Minister Nicolas Gonzalez-Revilla and the leaders of the team that negotiated the new treaties, Romulo Escobar Bethancourt and Aristides Royo. The latter is also education minister.

The countries to be represented at the June "summit" in Panama, with the exception of the United States, are the same ones which attended a meeting in Bogota in August 1977 "at a crucial moment in the Panama-U.S. negotiations on the interoceanic waterway," the Foreign Ministry recalled. The heads of state are also the same, except for the addition of Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo.

EDUCATION MINISTER ROYO COMMENTS ON CANAL, CARTER

PA171841Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 2245 GMT 16 May 78 PA

[Text] Madrid, 16 May (EFE)--Panamanian Education Minister Aristides Royo, who was also a canal treaty negotiator, said here today that the recovery of the canal has more political than economic meaning for Panama.

After referring to the various options presented in the negotiations between the United States and Panama, the minister said that his country is much more than a canal and that the canal is no bargain from the economic point of view. Royo stated: "The U.S. Government has assured us that the canal has not provided any revenue in the past 3 years and that they had to subsidize it." "However," he noted, "we think that in the near future the canal, properly managed, could produce between 250 and $300 million yearly."

According to the minister, the canal is not conceived as a business but "as a service to the world."

When asked about the possible benefits Panama could obtain after assuming complete sovereignty over the canal at the end of 1999, the minister said that no studies have been made in that regard. He noted: "It is possible that many years from now a lock canal will be obsolete and sea-level canals will become the only profitable type of passage."

Referring to what the United States has obtained from the treaty, Royo said that the most important thing is the security of the canal, its neutrality and the certainty of not incurring the enmity of a nation.

After reiterating that the treaty binds the United States to a gradual withdrawal from the Canal Zone, the minister referred to the School of the Americas, noting that he would not like to see the school transferred. According to Royo, the school--a famous antiguerrilla institute created by the United States to train military men from the American continent--"has great value."

Royo stated that the President of the United States "is a charismatic figure" and that to a large extent the signing of the treaty was possible due to this as well as his efforts.

BROAD FRONT SEES CARTER VISIT AS 'VICTORY'

PA172025Y Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 17 May 78 pp 1A, 10A PA

[Text] A news conference was held at noon yesterday at the Panama Hotel to announce a plenary meeting of the Broad Front of Professionals on 2 June and to establish the position of this organization with regard to the American President's visit on 16 June. It considers the visit to be "the ratification of the Panamanian people's victory." The conference was attended by a large number of Panamanian and foreign newsmen.

Before releasing a communique, the text of which follows, Dr Renato Pereira, secretary general of the Broad Front of Professionals, outlined the activities of the group, which, he said, "is an organized response to the need felt by professionals to fulfill their role in the country's politics."

Accompanied by Dr Carlos Malgrat, Prof Berta A. Gonzalez, Dr Juan Manuel Castulovich, Alvaro Arosemena, Dr Bethania Belendez, Vicente Garibaldi and Prof Miguel Montiel, Dr Preira responded to many questions posed by newsmen. In answering one of those questions, he said that "the Broad Front of Professionals, the spirit of the professionals, will turn President Carter's visit into an occasion to show the world that we are capable of organizing ourselves to tackle the tasks required for the operation of the canal."

Concerning the country's political situation and especially the graffiti painted along Balboa Avenue, the secretary general of the Broad Front of Professionals repudiated it by saying: "The morality of the Panamanian citizen should be in step with his revolutionary spirit," stressing that this is not the way to carry out a revolution.

Concerning the territory that will be returned to Panama through the approved treaties, for which the exchange of ratification documents has prompted the American President's visit, Dr Pereira stated that the Broad Front of Professionals still does not have a study available on what could be done with it since that is up to the government, and committees are already being appointed to study the matter; however, by no means "should the lands be subject to the voraciousness of the private businessmen."

The communique issued by the Broad Front of Professionals states:

The ceremony for the exchange of documents of ratification of the Torrijos-Carter treaties will be held in Panama on 16 June. President Carter will pay an official visit to Panama to attend this ceremony.

With this ceremony, the people and Government of Panama conclude an episode of profound significance.

Even though it does not fulfill all the historic aspirations of the Panamian nation, the canal treaty sets forth a timetable for decolonization.

It is in the context of decolonization that the broad front views President Carter's visit as a victory of the Panamanian people.

Carter's stay in our country will draw international attention. The world should witness the most vigorous demonstration of patriotic and enthusiastic unity.

President Carter, who under difficult circumstances knew how to represent the most sensible and realistic trends in his country, those which advocated a fundamental change in the colonial relations imposed on our homeland in 1903, should be received with dignity and respect.

Furthermore, the day set for the American President's visit should be viewed with the conviction that the people of Panama are preparing seriously and in a disciplined manner to assume the enormous and complex duties involved in the progressive recovery of the Canal Zone.

With the ceremony scheduled for 16 [June], the Panamanian nation solemnly ends a stage in its prolonged struggle for the completion of its independence. The broad front is aware that there is still a long way to go. The next stage, that of the implementation of each and every one of the achievements contained in the canal treaty, will require a special display of calm, organization and discipline, a major demonstration of which should be made to President Carter himself and international public opinion on 16 June.

COLUMNIST EVALUATES QUINTERO'S LETTER ON CARTER VISIT

PA122348Y Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 11 May 78 p 6A PA

["Macheteando" column by Mario Augusto Rodriguez: "Dr. Quintero's Letter"]

[Text] 1. Respectability

In my opinion, Dr Cesar Quintero is one of the country's most respected personalities and possesses great civic and moral authority.

In my role as a professional journalist, I have followed his activities for decades since he began to gain prominence as a thinker and ideologist in the leadership of the student movements which overthrew Ricardo Adolfo de la Guardia's dictatorship, which rejected the infamous surrender of Panamanian territory to Yankee militarism after World War II and began a revolutionary and dignifying process in the country's political life which is now reaping its most positive results. This is why I read with great interest Dr Quintero's letter to U.S. President Jimmy Carter, which was published in Miguel Angel Moreno Gongora's "Conciencia Publica" column on page 6A of the 8 May edition of the newspaper MATUTINO. In my opinion, this letter should be carefully analyzed not only by the Washington government and the Panamanian authorities, but also by all national sectors.

2. Reasons

I suppose Dr Quintero's letter must have been publicly explained in press statements or on radio or television interviews. Unfortunately I was abroad for several weeks and I have not found in the newspapers any detailed references to these expositions. The letter addressed to President Carter does not include explanations or analyses of the legal aspects, only conclusions and affirmations. Dr Quintero believes that the Torrijos-Carter treaties are "detrimental to the integrity, economy and independence of the Republic of Panama" and he contends that the amendments, reservations and understandings introduced in them under pressure from a minority in the U.S. Senate make it legally necessary to subject these treaties to a new plebiscite in our country. But the letter does not explain to President Carter the reasons, motivations and legal or moral bases supporting these considerations. Perhaps the people are aware of them. But President Carter's administration can hardly be aware of them.

3. A Layman's Opinion

I have no legal knowledge or training to interpret the Torrijos-Carter treaties authoritatively or to evaluate their contents, significance or scope. My opinion as a layman is that those treaties do not fully satisfy my aspirations as a Panamanian or constitute the best guarantee for my fatherland's security, stability or independence. Chief of Government General Torrijos himself has admitted this much. But I also believe that those treaties represent valuable conquests because they improve our relations with the United States to our benefit: They reduce the geographical and juridical dimensions of the U.S. presence on the national territory, they establish rules and procedures for the gradual devolution of the installations to Panama, including Panama's effective sovereignty and jurisdiction over the area, and they set a fixed date for the total transfer of the interoceanic waterway and its neighboring territory--including the present military bases--to the Panamanian authorities, while guaranteeing that after the year 2000 only Panamanian military forces will remain on Panamanian territory.

4. Carter's Work

If one bears in mind that these achievements--even if partial and gradual--have been possible due to the tenacious efforts directly made on our behalf by President Carter, I do not see how our people would not welcome the U.S. President to our country, particularly if we recall that the ominous Buneau-Varilla agreement was approved by a constituent national assembly and ratified by many municipal governments or councils, and if we further recall that the new Panamanian generations have not only the right but also the duty to continue struggling to broaden and improve the conquests achieved so far in order to continue the generational alpinism that characterizes the Panamanian nation's existence and its permanent struggle to complete and consolidate the process of independence begun in 1903.

MATUTINO DENOUNCES COMMUNISTS IN GOVERNMENT

PA150049Y Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 13 May 78 p 6A PA

["Conciencia Publica" column by Miguel Angel Moreno Gongora: "The Shady Plot"]

[Text] On several occasions I have noted the existence of political groups of clearly communist persuasion which act on orders from foreign chiefs and which, despite the fact that a large number of their members are generally entrenched in the government, care nothing about the stability of the government which gives them a means of livelihood, and even less for the democratic demands of a great majority of the people because they are only interested in instability and social unrest, which is their cup of tea.

These are the same groups who devote themselves to indoctrination, often with the approval of government officials, teaching all kinds of antinational ideas by means of roundtable discussions, social gatherings, debates, seminars and meetings of criticism and self-criticism with government employees whose salaries are paid by us taxpayers, who do not share their antidemocratic ideas. Those same groups, instead of dedicating themselves to useful work to benefit the people, devote themselves to holding congresses in which they advocate increased hatred and a fierce division among classes in order to promote a fratricidal explosion within the Panamanian family.

Some days ago, specifically in the city of Colon, the president of the republic joined us in denouncing the existence of these groups which serve the interests of other nations. The president did not fail to concede that, as the public knows, they are entrenched in the government. We wish to highlight the fact that, as the president himself said, this should lead government officials to reflect on the harm they are doing to the country by sheltering those enemies of democratic restoration and abominable advisers to our leader regarding antidemocratic matters.

It is true and undeniable that these enemies of democracy--instead of dedicating themselves to positive work for the benefit of the community or to the generous action of social projects, such as those being carried out by the Agricultural Development Ministry to provide benefits for the peasant masses--undertake with our own money to promote the disruption of democracy, without concern, as I have said, for the government from which they are profiting or the rest of the immense majority which struggles against the existing political system. Finding themselves between two waters, they agitate both waters to cause a tidal wave that will favor their shady plots.

Russia and Cuba, cradles of the antipatriots, are two places from where the enemies of Panama receive their instructions. It is these two countries which dominate the sending of advisers and instructors to our country, with the acquiescence of the government. The young people of San Blas and other regions of the country travel to and from there and it is from there that we receive tons of communist literature. This is because they are preparing themselves, those who one day will fall upon us--upon those in the government and those who promote and support them as well as the rest of the Panamanians--to establish a system contrary to our democratic, libertarian and Christian convictions.

COSTA RICA

PRESIDENT, FOREIGN MINISTER DEPLORE DOMINICAN EVENTS

PA180259Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0200 GMT 18 May 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, 17 May (AFP)--In a joint statement issued this afternoon, Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo and Foreign Minister Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier deplored the events in the Dominican Republic. In their statement they called for a return to peace in that country and respect of human rights.

Carazo and Calderon issued the statement in view of reports from the Dominican Republic that a coup d'etat is being planned. They also expressed hope that the OAS will reestablish order in that country.

This is the first statement on foreign affairs that President Carazo has made since he took office on 8 May.

EL SALVADOR

RED CROSS HEADQUARTERS OCCUPIED AGAIN

PA171902Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1540 GMT 17 May 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 17 May (ACAN-EFE)--Red Cross sources here have reported that the headquarters of the Salvadoran Red Cross was occupied again, this time by the "Committee of Mothers of Political Prisoners." On 10 May the office was evacuated by the United Popular Action Front (FAPU), which had occupied it since 28 April. FAPU asked the International Red Cross to serve as a mediator in establishing contact between Salvadoran political prisoners and their relatives.

The Committee of Mothers of Political Prisoners also occupied the OAS office here in January at the end of an inspection visit to El Salvador by an OAS human rights commission.

GUATEMALA

LAUGERUD CALL FOR PARTY REGISTRATION DRAWS MIXED RESPONSE

PA180335Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2135 GMT 17 May 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 17 May (ACAN-EFE)--President Kjell Laugerud Garcia's request for a political opening that would allow the registration of new parties has had very different reactions in Guatemala today. The president called for the opening yesterday.

The first response came from the director of the Electoral Registry, Arturo Maldonado de la Cerda, who recalled that "there is a law and the law must be complied with. For this reason, even if the president begs me on his knees, I could not violate a legal mandate."

Yesterday, the president asked the Electoral Registry to facilitate the registration of new parties, especially the registration of six committees which have already started working in that direction.

Maldonado de la Cerda has stated that "if the committees comply with all the requirements they will be registered at the end of a necessary process. But if they do not, then there is nothing to be done but to refuse their registration request."

Meanwhile, the president of Congress, Deputy Rafael Castillo Valdez, has stated that " resident Laugerud's request is a challenge to the political participation of citizens," and noted that this challenge is very important at this moment. Castillo also stated: "I agree with the president that recent intensified activity [efervescencia] resulted from the fact that many citizens do not participate and feel alienated and even frustrated because they do not have a political party that responds to their wants and beliefs."

The president of Congress added that the registration of new parties represents democratization of the country and that this will contribute "to not having exclusively military candidates in the 1982 presidential elections," as has happened in the past.

Miguel Ambrino, director of the Committee of the United Revolutionary Front, has pointed out that "the presidential appeal comes too late. He has made it when he is only a few days away from leaving office." However, Ambrino admits that this could mean the beginning of an era of full political liberty in the country.

Alejandro Maldonado Aguirre, director of the pro-National Revolutionary Party Committee [director del Comite pro Partido "Nacional Revolucionario"], also believes that Laugerud's request "could be a guarantee for true popular participation in politics that will put an end to the present oligarchy."

Other parties already registered and other proparty formation committees have maintained a strict silence considering that "it is not worth commenting on a government action that was no longer necessary since the new authorities are committted to carry them out." These groups were referring to one of the government programs of President-elect Gen Fernando Romeo Lucas Garcia. This plan includes the registration of committees that have already made efforts in that regard and of other party committees that may appear.

The already known committees include sectors of the left and right. Included in the "radical-democratic" left is the United Revolutionary Front. In the center-left are the United Revolutionary Front and the National Integration Front (the Indian party). At center-right are the Nationalist United Front and the Nationalist Authentic Central [Central Autenica Nacionalista]. There is also the National Action and Reconstruction Party, which has not stated its political leaning.

HONDURAS

LIBERALS OPPOSE BID FOR MILITARY CONTINUITY

PA172312Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1655 GMT 17 May 78 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 17 May (ACAN-EFE)--The Honduran Liberal Party, one of the two traditional political organizations, today, Wednesday, denounced the existence of a continuity campaign headed by chief of state Gen Juan Alberto Melgar Castro. The party's Central Executive Council in a communique states that the people "must firmly turn down any maneuver aimed at marring the purity of the coming electoral process." At the same time, it warns that "any attempt to deceive the Honduran people's good faith will lead the nation to days of anguish."

The content of the document is strong and constitutes the first manifestation of its kind since the military took over power on 4 December 1972 by overthrowing a Liberal-Nationalist coalition government. The Honduran Armed Forces promised elections for 1979, for which an advisory council was created 3 years ago to draft an electoral law which became effective in January of this year. In compliance with the law, a National Electoral Tribunal was created with delegates from the traditional Liberal and National parties, in addition to others in the process of organization, such as Christian Democracy and National Renovation and Unity. The tribunal is working without a budget despite the fact that 3 months ago it complied with the technicality of submitting a detailed account of operations amounting to over $5 million.

The executive branch has not approved a national citizens registry draft bill submitted by the tribunal 3 months ago. The registry is necessary to start the electoral census required to guarantee the purity and efficiency of the process.

For these reasons, the Liberal Party points to the existence of a continuity campaign and condemns government officials who promote it with public statements and widespread publicity throughout the country. The Liberals point out that "never has a nation been subjected to an illegal regime which has brought so much corruption and international discredit to the nation." They also condemn statements by Melgar to a foreign correspondent that the electoral process was delayed because the Electoral Tribunal is not working properly. The Liberals contend that the delay in the electoral process "is deliberate and originates at the highest-ranking military levels."

EXTRADITION REQUEST FOR NICARAGUAN GUERRILLA ACCEPTED

PA171800Y Teguicgalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 2308 GMT 16 May 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] The Honduran military government has processed the extradition request presented by the Nicaraguan Government for Sandinist guerrilla German Pomares, now imprisoned at a Tegucigalpa military post. Pomares was captured by the national army near Paraiso while participating in subversive movements against Nicaragua. He is accused of a series of crimes in Nicaragua.

This station learned this morning that the government and Justice Ministry had sent to the Supreme Court the extradition request presented by the Nicaraguan Government. Our country has taken into consideration the international agreements on extradition in deciding on the Nicaraguan request. The Supreme Court of Justice may during the coming hours authorize Pomares' extradition so that he can stand trial for the crimes charged against him in Nicaragua.

Meanwhile, our reporters reveal that labor, student and peasant organizations have asked the Honduran Government not to authorize Pomares' extradition. This petition has not received any reply from the government.

ANACH DENOUNCES COURT MACHINATIONS AGAINST PEASANTS

PA171459Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2355 GMT 16 May 78 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 16 May (ACAN-EFE)--The Honduran Peasants National Association (ANACH) reported today, Tuesday, that the Supreme Court, in violation of human rights, is detaining nearly 100 farm hands under false charges.

The charge, contained in a letter by the ANACH's top leaders to Salomon Jimenez Castro, president of the Supreme Court of Justice, spells out the shrewd procedures that the judges have employed against the farm hands. It adds that the court serves the latifundists and that "the imprisonment of peasants under false charges of cattle rustling, land invasions and alteration of boundaries is unacceptable."

The ANACH leaders also state their hope that the Supreme Court will release the farm hands and make justice prevail on behalf of the arrested.

"The judges' conduct is a violation of human rights because it unjustly limits the freedom of the producers of basic grains," the letter concludes.

In turn, the Social Christian National Union of Peasants (UNC) also charged recently that a large number of its members are in prison on the same charges.

NICARAGUA

POLICE END STUDENT OCCUPATION, ARREST 13

PA180225Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2305 GMT 17 May 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] The student center of the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua today reported that military patrols entered the Technical-Vocational Institute and the Miguel de Cervantes school. According to the reports, Col [names indistinct] Gutierrez, commander of the Managua police, personally directed the operations to remove the students. The reports add that five students were arrested at the Technical-Vocational Institute while eight students were arrested at the Miguel de Cervantes school.

The student center has not disclosed the names of the 13 arrested students. The buildings of the aforementioned schools were occupied yesterday by the students who were removed today.

AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY WORKERS STRIKE FOR HIGHER PAY

PA171418Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0030 GMT 17 May 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 16 May (ACAN-EFE)--Employees of the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua (UNAN) today staged a work stoppage in demand of pay raises. The UNAN workers and employees have asked for a 40-percent raise in pay, but university officials have agreed to grant only a 10-percent increase.

The UNAN Board of Directors had previously announced that it will meet tomorrow to approve the university's budget. However, in view of the strike called by the university workers union, the authorities will probably postpone the meeting on the approval of the new budget.

The university workers want higher pay increases based on a "just" scale of pay raises and not on an overall percentage that would harm those who earn low salaries.

HAVANA REPORTS ON SITUATION IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

FL171637Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 May 78 FL

[Text] Santo Domingo--The Dominican population is a state of expectation in the face of growing rumors of a coup d'etat after military forces suspended the election count without prior announcement or explanation. The Central Electoral Board headquarters is closed and, according to unofficial sources, the congress has been occupied by the military. Most work places did not open, and no radio station is on the air except for two progovernment stations which are broadcasting instrumental music and have carried a communique of Armed Forces Secretary Lt Gen Juan Rene Beauchamps Jaiver who, on behalf of the armed forces, asserted that the rumors to the effect that the armed institutions are waging a coup d'etat are false. He further asserted that the armed forces would not depart from their functions and would preserve the republic and institutions.

When the vote count was suspended at dawn today, opposition candidate Antonio Guzman had an almost two-to-one lead over President Balaguer and an advantage in the capital, in Santiago, La Romana, San Pedro de Macoris, Moca, (San Pedro) and in other important provinces and cities.

Coup Rumors Denied

FL172342Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 May 78 FL

[Text] Dominican Armed Forces Secretary Lt Gen Juan Rene Beauchamps Javier today has denied rumors of a coup d'etat in the country. The rumors grew as a result of the military intervention in the electoral process, when it saw that the opposition candidate Antonio Guzman had an advantage over the present chief of state, Joaquin Balaguer, of almost two to one.

Two people killed, several towns militarily occupied and sporadtic shooting in the capital were events that preceded the military intervention into the process that gave the victory to the opposition. Following the suspension of the election count, military men and police held what they called an electoral victory celebration for Joaquin Balaguer and at the same time displayed the ruling party's political propaganda.

For their part, spokesmen for the opposition stated that they would not be surprised if a coup d'etat did occur in the Dominican Republic because during the electoral campaign the military clearly favored the reelection of Balaguer and were against opposition candidate Antonio Guzman.

At the same time it was learned that Manuel Joaquin Castillo, chairman of the Central Electoral Board, could not be located by the press or opposition party delegates, and even though none of the principal leaders of Guzman's party, the Dominican Revolutionary Party, have been detained, some have withdrawn from public activities as an elementary precaution.

MOBUTU EMPLOYS PARATROOPS IN ATTEMPT TO RETAKE KOLWEZI

FL171120Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 17 May 78 FL

[Text] The regime of Mobutu Sese Seko has dropped thousands of parachutists on Kolwezi in an attempt to recover this city, which has been in the hands of rebel forces since yesterday morning. For his part, Mobutu has reiterated his request for intervention by NATO countries and assistance from Morocco and China to liquidate the rebel forces which are revolutionizing the Province of Shaba.

Information originating in Lusaka, the Zambian capital, indicates that fighting continues between the rebel forces and the military forces of the Mobutu regime. Western news agencies concur in highlighting that the rebels have occupied part of the mining city of Kolwezi and the nearby airport, as well as the town of Mutshasha. The Zairian Army has sent considerable military reinforcements to the city of Lumumbashi. French diplomatic sources in Zaire point out that six French military advisers are missing.

In Prague, meanwhile, the Czechoslovak newspaper RUDE PRAVO has hailed the victories of the popular forces in Shaba Province and noted the importance of this struggle for the other African national liberation movements.

CEMA DELEGATIONS VISIT ISLE OF PINES

FL171943Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1816 GMT 17 May 78 FL

[Text] The heads of nine delegations attending the eighth meetings of the CEMA committees on cooperation in the area of technical and material supply that is being held in Havana have arrived on the Isle of Pines. The delegation is headed by N. Martynov, chairman of the CEMA committee is this area, and is accompanied by Irma Sanchez, chairman of the Cuban State Committee for Material and Technical Supply. The delegates to the CEMA meeting were received at the Nueva Gerona airport by (Felix Mujena), party second secretary on the Isle of Pines, and other leaders of the Municipal People's Government Assembly. The CEMA delegation will visit the museum set up at the old Modelo prison and other places of economic and cultural interest on the Isle of Pines.

ARNALDO MILIAN ATTENDS PEASANTS DAY EVENT

FL180154Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 May 78 FL

[Excerpts] The main event honoring the day of the peasant was held this afternoon at the National Association of Small Farmers [ANAP] cadre school in Guira de Melena [Havana Province]. The event was presided over by PCC Politburo member Arnaldo Milian and Central Committee members Jose Ramirez Cruz, Jesus Montane Oropsea and Rafael Francia Mestre. ANAP President Jose Ramirez Cruz spoke at the event: [begin Ramirez Cruz recording] Comrades: We are meeting at this simple but meaningful and historic event to celebrate on this date the following important historical dates for our peasants, working class and our entire revolutionary people: the 32d anniversary of the assassination of Niceto Perez, the 19th anniversary of the signing of the agrarian reform law and the 17th anniversary of the establishment of ANAP. The three events would require a great deal of time to describe them in all their magnitude, but we intend to say only a few words, as we have traditionally done on every 17 May, the day of the peasant, to pay deserved homage to Niceto and all those who, like him, knew how to offer their precious lives so that the just cause of the workers and peasants would triumph in our fatherland. [end recording]

Also present at the event commemorating the day of the peasant were Luis Alvarez de la Nuez, party first secretary in Havana Province, and members of the ANAP National Bureau. Political, mass and state organization delegations also attended.

SITUATION UNCLEAR IN WAKE OF 16 MAY PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Casualties, Violence Reported

PA171411Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1338 GMT 17 May 78 PA

[Text] Santo Domingo, 17 May (EFE)--At least 2 persons died, 7 were injured and over 100 were arrested in a series of confusing incidents during the presidential elections in the Dominican Republic, in which the vote counting was cut short at dawn.

The casualties include an air force (?draftee), age 24.

The incidents occurred in San Juan de la Maguana last night as the results of the elections were being announced. The announcements were finally interrupted following military occupation of the Central Electoral Board.

In the capital two national police patrol vehicles were fired upon in densely populated San Carlos district, while another was fired upon in Mina district, in the central and eastern parts of the city, respectively.

Other incidents, equally confusing because of the absolute lack of news--all news dissemination was suspended at 0430--have occurred in various parts of the city.

The Palace of Congress was also occupied by the military.

Vote Tallying Stopped

PA171445Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1426 GMT 17 May 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 17 May (AFP)--Troops and policemen this morning interrupted proceedings at the Central Electoral Board of the Dominican Republic in an apparent reaction to what appeared to be a smashing victory of the Dominican Revolutionary Party [PRD] in yesterday's elections, it was learned here.

The tallying of votes was suspended and two electoral delegates of the PRD died when they clashed with police at the municipal electoral board in San Juan de la Maguana, according to telephone reports received here.

A PRD official spokesman said that the main offices of the Central Electoral Board, [words indistinct] (?arrested) the newscasters.

Before the intervention occurred in the capital, said the spokesman, there had been a telephone call to the electoral board of San Pedro de Macoris Province. The person who replied was an officer who stated flatly, "this business of the elections is concluded."

The information was given over the telephone to Venezuelan political leaders who were closely following the results of the Dominican elections.

Since this communication it has been impossible to make telephone contact with the PRD office in Santo Domingo, the sources said.

UN Intervention Requested

PA171526Y Caracas Radio Rumbos in Spanish 1513 GMT 17 May 78 PA

[Text] The president of the Dominican Revolutionary Party [PRD], Salvador Jorge Blanco, phoned the president of the Puerto Rican Independent Party, Ruben Berrios, and told him there was an unprecedented situation of force in the Dominican Republic. Berrios told UPI that Blanco asked him to request UN intervention to prevent a coup d'etat. Berrios said the electoral process in the Dominican Republic had been violated.

Pena Gomez Not Deported

PA171555Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1550 GMT 17 May 78 PA

[Text] Santo Domingo, 17 May (EFE)--The leadership of the Dominican Revolutionary Party [PRD] has categorically denied insistent rumors circulating in the city to the effect that PRD leader Jose Francisco Pena Gomez was deported to Puerto Rico. Pena Gomez, secretary general of the PRD, is in hiding in Santo Domingo.

PRD Official Interviewed

PA171725Y Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 1619 GMT 17 May 78 PA

[Telephone interview with Dominican Revolutionary Party [PRD] leader Jorge Blanco by reporter Reyes Medina--recorded]

[Excerpt] [Question] Can you tell us about the situation in Santo Domingo and the election returns so far?

[Answer] The situation in the country since dawn today, which actually began to develop yesterday afternoon or evening, involves force and the disavowal of the will of the Dominican people, who went to the polls in great numbers. Attempts at concealing election results from the people have been made. The Central Electoral Board and the Board of the National District, with headquarters here in Santo Domingo, have not been able to issue official returns, even though they had the results of the election in their possession. These returns show an overwhelming or majority victory by the Dominican Revolutionary Party in over 20 of the 26 provinces of the country. Moreover, at dawn today, at around 0500, the Central Electoral Board and the National District Board in Santo Domingo were virtually occupied by the armed forces and the national police. All efforts at counting votes and tabulating the tally sheets were suspended.

[Question] Dr Blanco, the armed forces chiefs say they staged the occupation to preserve order in the country. What can you say about this?

[Answer] In our opinion, order has been maintained by the Dominican people's disciplined attitude, and with the help of authorities entrusted with safeguarding public order. That is to say, in that sense, these elections have been an example of the Dominican people's civil spirit; everything was progressing properly. There were incidents at some polling places in the country, but these did not disrupt the elections. The most serious case of disruption of public order was in San Juan de Damajuana, where the municipal electoral office was shot at by armed forces and national police forces. In general, the attitude, conduct and behavior of the Dominican people is worthy of praise. The voting was orderly and peaceful.

[Question] Then why do you think the armed forces intervened?

[Answer] It would appear that they were motivated by the election results, which represent a victory for the Dominican Revolutionary Party.

[Question] Do you think your victory will be disallowed by the armed forces and government?

[Answer] We cannot give an opinion yet. We are waiting for the situation to be clarified before expressing a final opinion.

Jorge Blanco Optimistic

PA171826Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1751 GMT 17 May 78 PA

[Text] Santo Domingo, 17 May (AFP)--The Dominican Revolutionary Party [PRD], apparent winner of yesterday's elections, today stated its belief that the authorities "will respect the free and sovereign will of the citizenry expressed at the polls and that constitutional order will prevail in the nation."

Salvador Jorge Blanco, the president of the PRD, stated that the results of the election "have given the majority an overwhelming victory" to the PRD, claiming that the ballot boxes tallied until early dawn today contained about half a million votes in its favor. In the first statement made by the PRD after the news of its lead was learned, Jorge Blanco said that his party had expressed its faith in democratic change.

Newsman Interviewed

PA171852Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1830 GMT 17 May 78 PA

[Excerpts] There is complete normalcy in the Dominican Republic, and the armed forces [words indistinct] waiting for the resumption of the vote count after yesterday's elections on the island. This was revealed from Santo Domingo by newsman Manuel Perez, who said the following to this station: [begin recording] At around 1000 this morning Armed Forces Secretary Lt Gen Juan Rene Beauchamos Javier issued a communique denying rumors of a coup d'etat. But has there been a military mobilization in Santo Domingo?

[Perez] A somewhat discreet one. There has been a mobilization, but not a blatant one, a discreet mobilization. Early this morning armed forces and national police contingents went to the offices of the Central Electoral Board and ordered the suspension of the transmission of the vote count. They seized the transmitting equipment.

[Question] Why did the military do this?

[Answer] We do not know. We do not yet know. We understand that the military is apolitical. There was no disorder.

The people were listening to the vote count over radio and television. The military appeared unexpectedly and asked that the transmission be suspended.

[Question] Is this action by the military concerning electoral returns on behalf of the president?

[Answer] This has not been blamed on President Balaguer but on sectors of his Reformist Party who are reportedly trying to exploit the military sector.

[Question] Where is the opposition candidate, Guzman?

[Answer] Vice President Jacobo Majluta will hold a press conference in about 40 minutes at his home. His party's executive committee met and appointed a high-level commission which will ask the supreme Electoral Board to resume the vote count. [end recording]

Guzman Claims Victory

PA172009Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1955 GMT 17 May 78 PA

[Text] Santo Domingo, 17 May (AFP)--Dominican Revolutionary Party presidential candidate Silvestre Antonio Guzman today proclaimed victory in the Tuesday elections. He said: "The whole country knows I won." He said he always had confidence in the armed forces and firmly believes that they will respect the institutions of the nation, the constitution and the law. He added that he was confident that President Joaquin Balaguer, his main opponent in the elections, "will in this case respect the will of the majority."

IMBERT BARRERAS ALLEGEDLY ARRESTED

PA172057Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 2043 GMT 17 May 78 PA

[Text] San Juan, Puerto Rico, 17 May (EFE)--It has been reported here that Gen Antonio Imbert Barreras was arrested today in Suzua, Puerto Plata Province, Dominican Republic, for opposing a coup d'etat in that country.

According to a phone call from the Dominican Republic received in San Juan by the La Gran Cadena radio station, Imbert Barreras was arrested today by the military.

Imbert Barreras, who was chief of the political police during the Trujillo era, recently published the second part of a book on Trujillo in which he attacks President Balaguer.

This would be the first arrest of any opposition leader in the Dominican Republic since military forces suspended the election vote count at dawn today.

Balaguer Promises Vote Count

PA172114Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2053 GMT 17 May 78 PA

[By Nicholas Parsons]

[Excerpts] Santo Domingo, 17 May (LATIN)--President Joaquin Balaguer told OAS observers that the counting of the votes cast in yesterday's elections--suspended this morning by military forces--will be resumed.

Former Ecuadorean President Galo Plaza, one of the OAS delegation's three members, told this agency that President Balaguer had assured him that he will respect the verdict of the polls. Plaza has explained that the OAS delegation is not sure what really happened this morning but, according to Balaguer, the president of the Electoral Board has disappeared, probably after hearing rumors of an imminent coup in the city. "We are under the impression that there is a desire to keep [the elections] within a legal framework," Galo Plaza affirmed, "but we do not know what other forces may be involved," he added.

Magazine Editor Interviewed

PA180136Y Bogota Cedena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 May 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--A climate of expectation and complete confusion could generate a civilian uprising if the victory of the Dominican Revolutionary Party [PRD] is disregarded after the police abruptly suspended the counting of the vote which was going against Joaquin Balaguer's government, who was a candidate for a third presidential term. The following is an extensive conversation [presumably via telephone] with journalist (Milciades Ubiera), chief editor of the magazine [name indistinct], on the tense situation prevailing in the Dominican Republic.

[begin (Ubiera) recording] Here in Santo Domingo we are experiencing a situation of tense calm since early this morning when military and police troops interrupted the counting of votes, which was being broadcast to the people over radio and television. Since then nothing more has been reported on the election returns. Up to that moment the opposition PRD was winning with a margin of approximately 2 to 1 in Santa Domingo and a little less in the interior. Approximately 25 percent of the votes had been counted and the PRD was ahead.

In this capital it has been insistently rumored that the armed forces, headed by its secretary general Gen Juan Rene Beauchamps Javier [words indistinct] coup d'etat. Nevertheless, no one is working, neither in the private nor public sector and the capital has been completely calm today. However, very few people are in the streets; (?only a few) public and private vehicles, but the supermarkets are full of people.

Gasoline is practically exhausted in some parts of the capital because the people have stocked up on it. There are many rumors, but nothing concerning President Balaguer. He was at the presidential palace at noon and has been working up to this moment. Apparently the situation is normal [words indistinct]. Nevertheless, there is nothing official that can be said concerning coup d'etat rumors but [words indistinct].

[Question] Has PRD candidate Antonio Guzman (?been proclaimed winner)?

[Answer] No, no winner has been proclaimed because the members of the Electoral Board were replaced, we would say, by military troops and the ballot boxes are controlled by them [words indistinct] throughout the country. Civilian personnel have been withdrawn and there has been no announcement. The vote counting was interrupted and it is not officially known who has won.

[Question] [Words indistinct] police prevented the counting of the votes?

[Answer] Yes, they are patrolling in small groups, but the troops are stationed in some places [words indistinct] at the bridges and [words indistinct]. There are very small patrols but there are troops controlling traffic. [Words indistinct] there are no radio transmissions, the stations are not operating, with the exception of the government station, the armed forces broadcasting station, Radio Clarin [words indistinct] one the military is involved [words indistinct].

[Question] What is the attitude of the PRD, which has proclaimed its victory? Are they prepared to defend...[does not complete sentence]

[Answer] Lawyer [names indistinct] Blanco has made an appeal to members to remain calm and his appeal seems to have been heeded. There is great interest in any information on the matter. So far [words indistinct] but its principal leaders do not appear, they do not appear, apparently they are [words indistinct]

[Question] What is the attitude of the special delegates of the OAS, including former Colombian President Misael Pastrana Borrero, regarding these incidents which have occurred?

[Answer] The mission, the former presidents who were here in the country, visited President Balaguer; they talked with him. A spokesman for the group, who was Galo Plaza [words indistinct], said that Balaguer is opposed, President Balaguer is opposed to any political solution which is contrary to provisions of the constitution. He said that Balaguer had told him this. He added that he has the impression that Balaguer honestly wants to respect the legal order. However, he does not know what other forces could have a role in the existing situation which has caused a deterioration of the electoral process. This is what the [words indistinct] say officially. They talked at approximately 1000 and said that he expressed opposition to any situation which violated the constitutional order. [end recording]

Appeal Seen to President Carter

PA170053Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0023 GMT 18 May 78 PA

[By Nicolas Parsons]

[Text] Santo Domingo, 17 May (LATIN)--Despite the army's interruption of the vote counting, opposition candidate Silvestre Antonio Guzman tonight claimed an overwhelming victory in yesterday's presidential elections.

During a news conference, Guzman said that after counting about 89 percent of the votes, his Dominican Revolutionary Party received 1.3 million votes, while the Reformist Party, which supported current President Joaquin Balaguer, received 475,000 votes.

"Presidents Carter and Balaguer promised to the world that they would guarantee free elections and respect the results. I am sure that Balaguer will fulfill his promise," he affirmed. This statement has been interpreted as an appeal to Carter and his administration to recognize Guzman as the new Dominican president.

"Various minority groups are conspiring against the wishes of the people, trying to distort the results of yesterday's elections," Guzman said, while discussing the army's intervention early this morning which culminated in the suspension of vote counting.

"The people's wishes are sacred and we are even willing to sacrifice our lives to make everyone respect them....We are totally confident of Balaguer's patriotism and democratic beliefs," Guzman added.

Meanwhile, the ban on all information continues in Santo Domingo. The radio stations keep broadcasting only musical programs and the streets are deserted while the capital city residents tensely continue to await developments.

18 May Results Announcement

PA1801007 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0040 GMT 18 May 78 PA

[Text] Santo Domingo, 17 May (EFE)--The soldiers who had been occupying the building of the Central Electoral Board since this morning have withdrawn, it was learned here tonight.

One of the three members of the Central Electoral Board has announced that the results of the election will be released tomorrow through certified copies of the vote count for each electoral roll in the hands of the presidents and delegates of the various political parties at the polls throughout the country.

This would bring about the solution that everyone has been hoping for and about which President Joaquin Balaguer informed the three OAS observers, Galo Plaza, Misael Pastrana Borrero and Julio Cesar Mendez Montenegro.

According to the latest statements by Galo Plaza, the president told him that he has a commitment to himself that election results be respected regardless of the outcome, thereby defending the democratic institutions and the people's will as expressed in the voting.

Central Electoral Board Commmique

PA1804207 Santo Domingo Radio Clarin in Spanish 0358 GMT 18 May 78 PA

[Communique of Central Electoral Board issued in Santo Domingo on 17 May--read by announcer]

[Text] The Central Electoral Board notifies all citizens that it has been adopting the pertinent measures to normalize the situation of certain municipal electoral boards in the interior of the country and that of the National District's electoral board so that these bodies can complete the process of vote counting.

As soon as the Central Electoral Board receives the vote count of each municipality and of the National District it will proceed to make the general computations of the votes for the national posts and for the posts of senators and deputies.

In carrying out these activities the Central Board will continue, as it has done so far, to carry out its duty in strict fulfillment of legal rules and with the impartiality that has (?characterized) its actions.

The people should therefore trust that the board will adopt all measures necessary to guarantee that the final results of the elections will represent the people's will, freely expressed at the polls.

GUYANA

SOVIET UNION SIGNS TREATY OF TLALTELOLCO

FL131920Y Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 9 May 78 p 3 FL

[Excerpt] Georgetown, Guyana, Monday, (CANA)--The Soviet Union has signed the treaty prohibiting the spread of nuclear weapons in Latin America, the Soviet Embassy has said here.

Altogether, 21 Caribbean and Latin American countries have signed the accord--the treaty of Tlaltelolco--among them, the Bahamas, Barbados, Grenada, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

Argentina and Surinam have signed, but not ratified, the treaty.

Notable non-signatories are Guyana and Cuba, although informed observers suggested that Cuba will now most likely follow the Soviet Union in signing the treaty.

JAMAICA

CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT POSTS ANNOUNCED

FL151820Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 12 May 78 pp 1, 23 FL

[Excerpt] Senator the Hon. Carl Rattray has been appointed new minister of education, among a number of changes in portfolio responsibilities announced by the prime minister yesterday.

A statement from the office of the prime minister said other changes in the government will be announced by the start of the budget debate which is scheduled to begin on June 8.

The statement was as follows:

"Prime Minister the Hon. Michael Manley today announced the appointment of Senator the Hon. Carl Rattray as the new minister of education. Senator Rattray, who is the minister of justice, will continue to hold this position until new arrangements are made. These will be announced prior to the start of the budget debate on June 8.

"The appointment follows on the recent transfer of Hon. Eric Bell from the Ministry of Education to the Ministry of Finance and the subsequent serious illness of the Hon. A. G. R. Byfield, who was temporarily assigned responsibility for the Ministry of Education."

PATTERSON LEAVES FOR SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL MEETING

FL161400Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 11 May 78 p 2 FL

[Excerpt] Foreign Affairs Minister the Hon. P. J. Patterson left Monday afternoon for New York en route to Dakar, Senegal, to attend a meeting of Socialist International, and Nigeria, where he is due to pay an official visit.

At the Dakar meeting, which is a follow-up to the meeting of Socialist International in Hamburg earlier this year, a major topic of discussion will be the new international economic order. Mr. Patterson is expected to continue the discussion started by Prime Minister Michael Manley at Hamburg.

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